

PREPARING FOR YOUR BEACH RANGER PROGRAM

Preparing for the classroom visit:

1. Please allow **one hour** for the scheduled presentation. It may be a few minutes shorter for young children with short attention spans. If the ranger's schedule permits, it may be a few minutes longer for older students with many questions. Teachers can help by staying involved during the presentation and managing disruptions.
2. Appropriate to the grade level, the ranger will cover such concepts as: niche, habitat, adaptations, lifestyles, organism interactions, resource values, pollution, food chains, survival strategies, and preservation.
3. Introducing some of these subjects prior to the ranger's visit might enhance the presentation, however, the rangers try to adapt to various levels of experience.
4. The presentation for grades three and up usually consists of a slide show, discussion, a "hands-on" session with shells and other marine specimens, and a question/answer period. For preschool through second grade, it may include songs, stories, feltboard activities, puppets, games, role-playing, and other age appropriate activities. *A slide presentation is optional for preschool through second grade classes. If you have a strong preference as to whether your students have the opportunity to view slides, please communicate this to the Edmonds Discovery Programs office at 425-771-0227.*
5. Our program staff will send an e-mail to reconfirm your program several days in advance. This is the best time for teachers to communicate any special needs or requests for the classroom program or the beach walk.

Preparing for the beach walk

A good field trip is *educational* as well as *fun*. In order to take maximum advantage of your trip:

1. Please provide name tags for your students. This is an excellent pre-visit activity and it enables your ranger to speak to your students using their names.
2. Inform parents of the nature of the trip with particular regard to weather so that they may prepare their children with **APPROPRIATE CLOTHING**. This may mean hats, parkas and rain gear, especially on early spring dates. Children and adults who are not physically comfortable at the beach have more difficulty enjoying their experience.
3. A pair of **RUBBER BOOTS** or extra shoes to change into afterwards is a necessity for children and adults, as the beach walk will include **WADING** in tidepools. Be prepared to get a little dirty and wet!
4. For the safety of younger students, it is suggested that you have **ONE ADULT FOR EVERY THREE TO FIVE CHILDREN**. This is a trip requirement for preschool through second grade classes.

5. Teachers and parents are expected to provide discipline when necessary, and maintain a positive learning atmosphere. Safety of the children and protection of the beach habitat and organisms are of the greatest importance in the program. Teachers should stress to parents the importance of keeping the children **TOGETHER AND CLOSE TO THE RANGER**, so they will not miss out on any information that is shared with the group.
6. Every attempt is made to keep the scheduled beach walks **REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER**, as it is difficult to reschedule a trip. If your beach walk should be canceled, you will be called at least 90 minutes before your scheduled meeting time.
7. Arriving 15 minutes before your scheduled walk gives you time to meet your ranger. It also provides some bathroom time. Once the beach walk begins, restrooms are not always convenient. If your scheduled time falls around lunch, also arrange a place and time to eat, before your beach walk. If you arrive in advance of your scheduled walk please let the students **WAIT TO DISCOVER THE INTERTIDAL ZONE WITH THE RANGER**. This will make the beach walk a more valuable learning experience, and decrease the destruction of marine life.
8. Timing of your beach walk is determined by the time of low tide. It is important for your group to **ARRIVE PROMPTLY AT THE ASSIGNED BEACH**. This permits your group to have maximum time while the beach is exposed. Arriving at the wrong beach will cause confusion and may delay your beach walk while you and your ranger try to find each other.
9. Be prepared for parking difficulties at all beaches if you are carpooling - especially on the warmer, sunnier days. **DO NOT DRIVE BUSES INTO THE BEACHSIDE PARKING LOTS**. Buses may find parking along Sunset Avenue or Admiral Way for Brackett's Landing Beach. Buses going to Olympic Beach and Marina Beach may park in the lot just to the north of Marina Beach. From this lot there is a pedestrian bridge leading into Marina Beach Park.
10. Most of all come prepared to participate and **HAVE A GOOD TIME**.

What to expect at the beach:

Your students' experience at the beach will be an exciting time of exploration and discovery. Your ranger's role is to guide the students in their own exploration. Rangers try to **ENCOURAGE THE STUDENTS' CURIOSITY** and allow them to take initiative in exploring rather than simply feeding them information. The extent to which they can do this depends in part on the group's ability to stay close to the ranger and allow him/her to guide them. (Parents and teachers can be especially helpful here!) When sunny weather and low tides bring more visitors to the beach, it is especially important to keep your group close to your ranger.

The intertidal environment is constantly changing, and no two beach walks will be exactly alike. Each habitat has a unique community of organisms that can be studied. The emphasis of the beach walk is to introduce children to the variety and complexity of marine life through **CAREFUL OBSERVATION** rather than providing students with a list of things to look for. It is not practical for rangers to gather a lot of specimens prior to a beach walk and put them in a touch tank for classes to observe. Students will learn more if they find and observe the animals in a natural setting.

If you would like your students to have a ***CHECKLIST OF COMMON ORGANISMS***, one can be found in a printable (PDF) format on our [Discovery Programs website](#).

A permit is required for collection of live specimens by scuba divers. No permits will be granted for any of the days on the beach walk schedule.

Help preserve our treasured beaches

Whether you arrange a field trip with Edmonds Discovery Programs or on your own, please keep in mind that:

1. The beach is not just a place to visit. It is a home for many living things. Respect this home and its occupants. When you are finished exploring an area, ***LEAVE IT AS YOU FOUND IT!***
2. Many animals are quite fragile. ***TOUCH ANIMALS GENTLY***, or observe them without touching. Return them where you found them, and please, never pry them off their attachment site.
3. All Edmonds city beaches are marine sanctuaries. This means that all living and non-living things (with the exception of garbage) are protected by law. ***COLLECTING IS PROHIBITED!*** This encompasses the underwater park and includes shells, rocks, plants, animals, and driftwood.